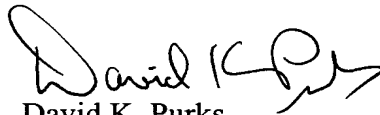


In re: Cuomo et al.  
Serial No.: 10/618,209  
Filed: July 11, 2003  
Page 8 of 8

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of this application as evidenced by the Office Action, and appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 5-7, 9-12, 14-15, and 18-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that Claims 14-15 are erroneously left out of the summary listing of objected to claims on Page 1, paragraph 7, of the Office Action. To place the application in condition for immediate allowance, Claims 5, 6, 14, 18, have been amended to independent form including the recitations of their base claims and any intervening claims, Claims 1, 13, and 17 have been canceled, and the other pending claims have been amended to depend from the amended independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which is requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



David K. Purks  
Registration No. 40,133  
Attorney for Applicants

USPTO Customer No. 46589  
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.  
P.O. Box 37428  
Raleigh, NC 27627  
Telephone: (919) 854-1400  
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401